



BUENA VISTA

SUMMER EDITION 2013



SAMS
UK & IRELAND
South American Mission Society

MISSIONAL ● RELATIONAL ● INTENTIONAL



Salt & Light

a message from the SAMS Mission Director



"I expect to die in my bed. I expect my successor to die in prison. I expect his successor will die as a martyr."

These are the words spoken recently by a Christian leader in the USA. The context is the increasing secularization of our

Western culture and the growing marginalization of orthodox Christianity. The words are startling and dramatic but worth heeding. Developments this side of the Atlantic often mirror those on the other side. In the midst of these developments the Church of Jesus Christ is called to be salt and light.

At the end of the 19th Century and on the doorstep of the 20th Century William Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, said the following...

“The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, and heaven without hell.”

William Booth is not often referred to as a prophet but how accurate he was. We see evidence for such realities far too frequently. In the midst of such developments the Church of Jesus Christ is called to be salt and light.

The global church has a global call to a global mission. We in SAMS and each one of us in our local churches and communities have a similar call. It is stretching. It is radical. It is clear. It is the way of Jesus. He was salt and light in the midst of a changing culture with an uncertain future and he was followed by people who ended up in prison and died as martyrs.

The call to follow Christ is no less costly today. We are part of a worldwide family in which some of our brothers and sisters are in prison and some are dying as martyrs. Are we willing to be Christ followers who will be unrelenting in our following, ruthless in our obedience and passionate in His Cause? The stakes are high. The road is rough. The privilege is immense.

In SAMS (UK and Ireland) this is our commitment. We step out in faith. We go where He leads. We seek to be salt. We desire to be light. Thank you for joining with us in this vital mission.

+ Ken Clarke

“Let me tell you why you are here. You’re here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavours of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness?...

Here’s another way to put it: You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colours in the world... Now that I’ve put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you’ll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.”

Matthew 5: 13-16 The Message

FEISA

— TRAINING TEACHERS, TRANSFORMING LIVES —

Student intake for 2013 is now closed, we have twenty-five 1st year students, twenty-eight 2nd year students, seventeen 3rd year students and eighteen degree students giving a total of eighty-eight students. Praise God! Thank you all so much for your support, which has enabled us to offer ten scholarships this year, 4 of which are for 1st year students. Viviana is an example of one of these students and we hope that her story gives you a glimpse into this important ministry.

FEISA Prayer Points

- That all the students may complete their year's studies.
- For the 2 new Diploma Courses – Inclusive Education and Skills-based Curriculum.
- For encouragement for all the staff and students in their very full lives and demanding timetables.

PROFILE: VIVIANA MONCERRAT RIVEROS



My name is Viviana Moncerrat Riveros. I'm 19 years old and I live with my parents and 4 siblings. I have a younger brother whose girlfriend recently gave birth to a baby girl, and they too have come to live with us. My father works on a farm and my mother is a housewife. My family has only a very modest income but I'm determined to get ahead and I'm therefore prepared to travel a long way for my studies. I live 50 kilometres from Asuncion and

this means I have to spend 3 hours travelling back and forth to FEISA each day as I really want to make a career in Early Years Education.

Although I'm very proud of my parents, I don't want to repeat the same cycle of poverty. In fact, I want to become a professional teacher so that I can repay them for all that they have invested in me. Thank you all so much for your support which is enabling me to do this!

Esperanza

an update from Penny Metcalfe



In my last update I mentioned that Dominga had agreed to take up the role of foster mum until a more permanent solution could be found. I have just heard that she has now been replaced by Inocencia and Marina. Inocencia is in her mid 40s and has older children of her own, and Marina is 19 and will be supporting her. They were recommended by one of the school mums from the nearby Anglican school, Colegio San Andrés. This has proved to be a valuable source of support for Esperanza as two other school mums, Ana Maria and Mari Liz Zubizarreta now form

part of the leadership team. A two year old boy and a three year old girl have been identified by the Adoption Centre to be transferred to Esperanza, but as Buena Vista goes to print they are still waiting for the paperwork to come through from the courts to enable this to happen - lets hope this doesn't take too long as everything is ready to receive them. The ladies have been working hard to repair and refresh everything in the house.

Keep praying and best wishes to you all.

Bolivia

*Interview with Rev Tammy Smith - Firestone
who serves in Bolivia.*



1. Tammy, how long have you lived in Bolivia, where do you live, and tell us about your family?

Bolivia has been our home for fifteen years. My husband Rusty is the grandson of missionaries in Bolivia, and our two children, Thomas (14) and Madelyn (11) were born there. We live in Cochabamba, located on the eastern slope of the Andes.

2. At present, what kind of ministry are you involved in?

I am a deacon and pastor-in-charge of La Trinidad Anglican church. My pastoral work is directed towards empowering and equipping lay and ordained ministers and, with this team of leaders, expanding the ministry of the church in Cochabamba. Rusty is a chiropractor involved in medical ministry and coordinating

Fact File



Nine

million population



Yungas Road

world's most dangerous road



60%

live below the poverty line



Sucre
Capital City

short-term mission teams serving needy communities.

3. What do you see as some of the biggest challenges facing the Anglican Church in Bolivia?

We are a relatively young diocese and need more clergy, lay leaders and mission partners that can help expand the church in the four main cities where we have congregations and into other regions, as well as rural Quechua-speaking areas, and develop infrastructure for reaching out in Christ's love through health and education.

4. You have a new Bishop. Tell us about him.

Raphael Samuel, from the Diocese of Singapore, has served in Bolivia for twenty years as pastor of a congregation in Santa Cruz and as Archdeacon of the diocese, starting new works, raising-up leaders, and helping local clergy assume the leadership of congregations. Raphael completed his Masters in Theology in Spanish in 2010 and is working on further post graduate studies in the area

of family counseling. His wife, Michelle, is actively involved in the church, especially in the area of worship and the creative arts.

5. Finally would you give us two prayer points which will help us as we pray for you?

Pray for La Trinidad, especially our "Nurturing God's Way" ministry which reaches out to parents alongside our 'Arocagua' hot-breakfast ministry to a poor squatter community. Pray that God will give us wisdom as we are seeking to plant a church in this area.

We always appreciate prayers for our family's health and protection, especially for our children.

SAMS wants to take this opportunity to congratulate the Rev Raphael Samuel and his wife, Michell Lee Hock Sim on Raphael's election as the Bishop of the Anglican Church in Bolivia. The consecration was held on 12 May 2013 in Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Pray without ceasing for Raphael with the many challenges ahead.



WELCOME TO CONCEPCION



Gillian Neill from Drumbo Parish has just arrived in Concepción to volunteer alongside SAMS mission partner Claire Holmes.

After the long journey I have finally arrived in Paraguay. I may have only been here a couple of weeks, but I already feel that I am settling in well and getting used to Paraguayan life. The welcome I received from the church and the people I have met has been great. The Paraguayans have kind hearts and have accepted me into their daily lives with open arms. I can see how people enjoy this culture and country so much. I'm still a beginner at Spanish

but everyone is so helpful and patient with me - especially the children. I also started some lessons with a local lady, which have been really helpful. I have been kept busy since arriving in Concepcion, getting involved in the different church ministries especially the children's groups.

I look forward to my 5 months here and I pray that I will serve with a sensitive and joyful heart.



CELEBRATING 50 YEARS

Mission partners, Gwen Carlisle & Mags Southern, tell us about the special 50th celebrations of St. Andrew's College.

This year Colégio San Andrés in Asuncion, Paraguay, celebrates its 50th anniversary.

March 18th was the school's official birthday, so we started our 50th celebrations then. The decorations in school started appearing from the beginning of March and the whole building was soon full of blue and yellow bunting. On the 18th March we had our big, in-school celebration.

All the children were given a cupcake to decorate and we had a huge birthday cake made. We had an official photo taken with all the children and staff forming the shape of the school badge. Afterwards each pupil was given a blue or yellow helium balloon

to which had been attached Bible verses as blessings to Paraguay.

The balloons were released to take their messages far and wide. We then sang Happy Birthday, ate lots of cake and played a variety of games. The pupils had a ball!

The 50th celebrations will continue throughout this year. In June SAMS Mission Director Bishop Ken Clarke will be the speaker at another important celebratory event at St. Andrew's so keep him and us in your prayers.

Thank you for partnering with us over these past years.

Mission Paraguay

I have heard it said that a short term mission visit to an overseas country can ‘enlarge a person’s heart, expand their vision, stretch their faith and create a deeper awareness of mission.’ When a person feels called to spend a few weeks in a country such as Paraguay, living and working among people who live in challenging circumstances, it clearly provides an opportunity for volunteers to use their skills and experience in a practical way. We do not always realise the effect that the experience will have upon us and our walk with God. Mission Paraguay is about changing lives but not just within the communities where we work, it also seeks to allow God to change us the volunteers. Following her visit to Concepción, Sarah, a Mission Paraguay volunteer wrote about the people she met, “They challenged my understanding of reliance on prayer for every

aspect of their lives. We all know in our heads that prayer works. But we don’t always practise that fully in our hearts.”

Through the generosity of many people this year Mission Paraguay has been able to fund the construction of new homes for Indian families living in desperate situations in the Chaco. In one of the villages with no running water another underground rain water storage tank was built. In July a group will be based at the church at Roque Alonso which is on the north eastern outskirts of Asunción. There will be a variety of projects to be involved in including work with children; assisting with the toy library organised by FEISA, distribution of spectacles, assisting with the sewing workshops and serving local families in need.

The first August group will be based in the Chaco where the



indigenous people live in some of the most deprived conditions in Paraguay. This will be a very different experience but in the past visitors have felt greatly blessed during the time spent there. We will be working alongside local people, carrying out substantial repairs to church buildings, working on a water storage project and constructing simple houses for families living in makeshift homes of timber and plastic sheeting.

The second August group will be based at San Pablo church in Concepción working alongside Claire Holmes. This group with travel to different communities in and surrounding Concepción to be involved in a range of evangelistic events and activities.

Your prayers are valued.

David Orritt

Co-ordinator, Mission Paraguay

MONICA

Hello! I am Monica and I am from Brazil. When I was about 10 years old, God planted a desire in my heart to be a missionary.

After I graduated from college, God brought me to Ireland, this lovely island that I could never have foreseen coming to. I worked with a church in Dublin for 2 years before I came to the North. Through the FUSION programme, God opened the door

for me to work in the Church of Magheralin and Dollingstown. Serving the Lord in the church is a privilege but also a challenge.

Although people are very friendly, Northern Ireland's culture is different from Dublin's, so it has taken me some time to adapt to this new context. I was always amazed at the number of missionaries that Northern Ireland has sent to the world.



Monica Almeida



Monica Almeida was born in the city of Belo Horizonte, in the southeast of Brazil. She is the middle of three children and her parents and siblings are still living in Belo Horizonte. Monica's faith journey reminds us of the importance of children's ministry, as at the age of 7 she handed over her life to God during a Sunday school class. Her desire is to serve God and to see people everywhere come to know his great love and compassion.

My passion is to see God's kingdom continue to grow in this area and I pray that Christianity will experience a new revival in this country.

The church I have been placed in is a very active church. We have two churches in the Parish and I attend both. There are plenty of activities to get involved in. I have been doing a number of different things. I am a volunteer at the Red Door, a youth centre for the youngsters in the community. It is great to see that the church has been able to build a bridge between itself and this age group of society. The Red Door has also cell groups for them to learn the word of God. I co-lead one group of young people that despite not being Christians are willing to discuss Christianity. I would appreciate your prayers for these boys and girls. I also

lead a weekly discipleship group in my house for young leaders in the church. It has been a good experience of Christian fellowship and mutual encouragement.

One particular thing that I am enjoying is the opportunity to speak in different contexts, like the Brownies, prayer meetings, church family meetings and the church Bible Study Fellowship. These experiences have helped me to develop new skills and have encouraged me to go deeper in the study of God's word.

I am very grateful to God for making me a partner in His work and I thank SAMS and all its supporters for giving me the chance to serve Jesus over here. I will appreciate your continuing prayers for this work and for my time in Northern Ireland.

the Redbox project

Fiona Heaney tells of her experiences as a Red Box Volunteer



This past year was full of adventure, as I volunteered for eleven months with SAMS as a Red Box volunteer in Salta, Argentina, and Bermejo, Bolivia. When I headed off on the plane, I had no idea what a journey I was going on, how much I would be stretched and challenged, and how much I would learn and grow.

How do I sum up my time in South America? It was packed full of highs and lows, fears and expectations, the pains of minor set-backs and the joys of small victories, stumbling attempts at picking up the language, incredible weather, fantastic food, encounters with vibrant and inspiring people, hospitality that I had never experienced before, friendships that I didn't think possible, the love of new found family, and the heartbreak of saying goodbye. I was pushed (sometimes reluctantly!) to do things I didn't think I was capable of, and as a result I have so many stories that I never thought I would be telling. If I learnt one thing from my time away, it is that nothing is impossible, and no challenge is too great when you bring it to God. But I didn't just learn one thing – the Red Box Project exposed me to such a range of culture, in both Argentina and Bolivia, and put me into the path of a wide variety of people.

I had the opportunity of living with and working alongside Cecilia, the project coordinator with teenage girls in the prison outreach project, and teaching English students of all ages and abilities. I had the privilege of being welcomed into the local church and serving alongside them and being involved in the youth and children's ministry.

The Red Box taught me the importance of relationship, of allowing yourself to be impacted by other people and of reaching out to others even if all you have to offer is a kind word and a smile. Everyone has a story to tell, and everyone has time to tell it, if you have the time to listen.

I have come back from South America impacted and inspired, both by experiencing the hard work that Cecilia and her team faithfully carry out, and from the time spent and shared with so many people. I know this will remain with me for many years to come. Now that I'm back in cold and rainy Ireland, there are many days I miss South America, the warmth of the sun, and the warmth of the people.



Pray For

The two new Bishops of Bolivia and Uruguay. On Sunday 12th May the Rev Raphael Samuel was consecrated Bishop of Bolivia. On 26th May the Rev Michel Pollesel was consecrated Bishop of Uruguay. Pray for them both in their new areas of ministry that they may embrace their responsibilities with humble and open hearts.



- Gwen Carlisle & Mags Southern and Hannah Taylor teaching in Asuncion.
- Claire Holmes and Gillian Neill in Concepcion.
- Pray for Alec Deane working with the Wichí people in the Chaco. SAMS has a new all age church resource for this project. Contact us for more details.
- Pray for Cecilia Valdiviezo and Red Box volunteers Robin Kee and Peter Harrison. Pray also for Red Box enquirers Nathan and Rebekah.
- Pray for SAMS Mission Director Ken Clarke visiting Paraguay and Northern Argentina in June.
- Pray for the Diocesan team from Kilmore, Elphin and Ardagh going to Paraguay in August.
- Pray for Alison Crawford who is going to Peru in the summer.

LEGACIES

SAMS is extremely thankful for legacies which are left by individuals for the benefit of the work in South America. Legacies can make a real difference to the ongoing work and the extension of God's Kingdom. Thank you for partnering with us. For further information in confidence contact the SAMS House.

Thank you for being part of the SAMS family. If we can serve you in any way please do not hesitate to contact us.

CONTACT DETAILS

SAMS HOUSE

1 Irwin Crescent, Lurgan,
Craigavon, Northern Ireland, BT66 7EZ

T: 028 3831 0144

E: info@samsukireland.com

W: www.samsukireland.com